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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 10 January 1953

SUBJECT 1. The September Elections
2. Members of the Sarande Executive Committee
3. Visit of the Soviet Cultural Delegation to Sarande

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1. On 14 September village council members were elected, on 21 September lokalitet council members were elected, and on 28 September deputies to the Popular Assembly were elected.
2. The Albanian Communist Party (officially called the Workers' Party of Albania) campaigned actively for its candidates, and held public meetings in the villages and towns. The Party stressed the following themes:
 - a. Albania had never known prosperity under King Zog and the Italians, and the Communist Party had brought prosperity to Albania.
 - b. The "Kulaks" have placed their hopes in the United States, but theirs is a lost cause and they should be attacked by the people.
 - c. Partisan efforts during World War II were praised.

3. [redacted] about two-thirds of the people who attended the public meetings and later voted did so because of fear of the authorities. Some people were secretly critical of having to attend the meetings because they knew that the Communists controlled the voting machinery and could announce any result they wished. Some people joked, "The little black box for votes against the Communist Party contains a bell which rings when a hand is inserted."

4. It was announced after the election that some votes had been cast against the Communist Party candidates: 15 in Shen Vasil, 15 in Gjashte, 15 in Leshnice, 22 in Delvine, and 2 in Sarande. One person in Sarande and 11 in Delvine did not vote although they were qualified to do so. [redacted] acts of this nature indicate that these persons have given up hope. Such an act

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can cause the person to be expelled from the Democratic Front and be labelled an "enemy of the State." A person who is not a member of the Democratic Front is deprived of his ration coupons and cannot obtain employment in any government enterprise.

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5. [] the following personalities [] were running for office in the September elections:
- a. Hysni Kapo, Assistant Premier, ran for re-election as Deputy from the village of Finiq.
 - b. Mero Veliu was elected Deputy from the area of the village of Bamatat.
 - c. Panajot Trubati was elected head of the village council in Metoq.
6. The following persons hold positions on the Executive Committee of the Rreth of Sarande:
- a. Tahir Demi, Chairman
 - b. Musklime Mamaca (female), from Delvine, Assistant Chairman
 - c. Lefter Partali, from Leshnice, Secretary
 - d. Papa (fnu), from Leshnice, "responsible" for agriculture and forests
 - e. Vangjel Angnosti, from Kalive Pashaj, "responsible" for finance
 - f. Stillo (fnu), from Delvine, "responsible" for economics
 - g. Vangjel Peto, from Dhrovjan, "responsible" for roads. Peto was formerly a police captain in the village of Hoxhaj.
7. On 10 September 1952 six Russians, male and female, arrived in Sarande. The Russians, members of a cultural delegation, held a public meeting and sang Russian songs. Tahir Demi, Chairman of the Sarande Executive Committee, made a speech during the meeting and stated that the Russians are friends of the Albanians and that they are doing their best to advance Albanian culture. The Russian delegation left for Gjinokaster on 11 September.

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[] Comment: The Rreth is the largest administrative subdivision of Albania. There are about 25 Rreth in Albania.

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